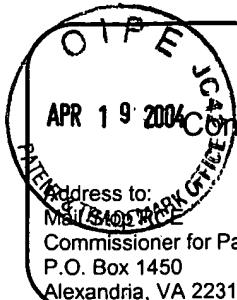


4-21-04

IMAGE
RCE
1745

Request

For

Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal

Application Number	09/489,515
Filing Date	January 21, 2000
First Named Inventor	S. R. Narayanan, et al.
Group Art Unit	1745
Examiner Name	J. Mercado
Attorney Docket Number	06618-408001

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s)
 - a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendment filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.
 - i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
 - ii. Other _____
 - b. Enclosed
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. Other _____
2. **Miscellaneous**
 - a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
 - b. Other _____
3. **Fee** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.
 - a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 06-1050
 - i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)
 - ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)
 - iii. Other Any deficiencies
 - b. Check in the amount of \$540 enclosed
 - c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print/Type)	Dale L. Rieger	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	43,045
Signature		Date	April 19, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : S. R. Narayanan, et al. Art Unit : 1745
Serial No. : 09/489,515 Examiner : J. Mercado
Filed : January 21, 2000
Title : MEMBRANE ELECTRODE ASSEMBLY FOR A FUEL CELL

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

In connection with the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of the above-captioned application, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and entry of the following amendment and remarks, which are responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on November 18, 2003, and to the Advisory Action mailed on April 13, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

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